

# THE NASHVILLE GLOBE.

"All things come to them that wait, providing they hustle while they wait."—Charles W. Anderson. "Get out of our sunshine."—R. H. Boyd.

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## REVIEW OF THE "CLANSMAN."

### EFFECTS OF PLAY ON MINDS OF GENERAL PUBLIC.

### Daily Press Compelled to Pronounce the Play Unwholesome.

NO GOOD CAN BE PRODUCED BY ITS PRESENTATION.—NEGROES WOULD BE IN DANGER OF BODILY HARM IF PRESENT—STRONG SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF BRINGING "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN" HERE—ADVISED AGAINST SUCH STEP—PEACE PRAYED FOR.

A Globe reporter was sent out by the Globe Publishing Company to learn something of Tom Dixon's Clansman, or better known as Rev. Thomas Dixon, mob instigator, Negro murderer, inflammatory race persecutor, or any other name that the English language contains to describe a man that has brought the most inflammatory agitation that has ever visited our peaceful community since the days that the murderous Ku Klux Klan drenched the fair Southland with innocent Negroes' blood. This reporter, although a taxpayer and a citizen, who was born and reared in the South, and has lived in Nashville more than a decade, paid his taxes, obeyed the laws and has tried to live a peaceable, Christian citizen, was denied admission to this murderous inflammatory exhibition for reasons unknown to him. Hence he can only judge the effects of this play by the reports and editorials of the daily papers whose editors were admitted possibly on complimentary tickets. Your reporter encloses herewith two clippings, marked No. 1 and No. 2 respectively. No. 1 is from the Nashville American, which seems to thrive upon the spirit of race hatred of the oppressed Negro. No. 2 is from the Nashville Banner. These will give some idea of the effects of this agitation on the minds of those who have seen the play.

(From The Nashville American.)

Seldom has a Nashville audience been so deeply moved by a dramatic production as that which witnessed "The Clansman" at the Vendome Theater on Wednesday night. The house was crowded almost to its capacity, and during the performance a state of suppressed excitement generally prevailed, but it is not meant to imply that the audience was undemonstrative, but merely that what was expressed was almost infinitesimal in comparison with what was felt. Wisely, it is believed, did the management exclude negroes from the playhouse, for so powerfully was the spirit of the reconstruction period revived that it is probable they would have been in imminent danger of being forcibly expelled, if, indeed, more drastic measures had not been resorted to.

The now famous creation of Thomas Dixon, Jr., was magnificently staged, and the behavior of the audience was eloquent testimony to the effective work of the cast. Not from the gallery alone emanated hisses and excited exclamations; but in such a manner also did occupants of boxes and orchestra seats give vent to the emotions of disgust and anger aroused by the presumption and villainy of the negro characters of the portrayal. Although the performance was not without its defects, one was blinded to them by the appealing force of the ensemble, and indeed it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible for any man or woman imbued with Southern sentiments to criticize dispassionately. So powerful are the passions which it inspires that one tends to forget that it is but a stage affair and this is the greatest compliment that can be paid it.

It is not necessary here to synopsize the story of "The Clansman" as it may be taken for granted that the public is familiar with it. It is an irrefutable argument against the possibility of social and political equality between the negro and the Caucasian

racess, and the play abounds with incidents which thrill a Southern audience with peculiar force. Powerfully dramatic is the portrayal of Austin Stoneman, the uncompromising, radical leader, bent on humbling the white people of the South to acquiesce in a condition of social equality, by John B. Cooke, who proved himself equal to the demands of his difficult part. Albert Andrus gave a masterful interpretation of the character of Silas Lynch, Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, the artful and ambitious mulatto, who aspired to the hand of Stoneman's daughter, Elsie, and the audience testified to the effectiveness of his work by its repeated hisses, and in one of the climaxes of the play the exclamation, "Shoot him," was heard. The part of Dr. Richard Cameron, the conservative, reluctant to countenance the organization of the Ku-Klux Klan until his daughter had jumped to her death to escape the clutches of a brutal negro, was well taken by Guy B. Hoffman. Nelse, Cameron's former slave, and devoted to his master, was realistically portrayed by Theodore Kehrwald. Coleman F. Carroll, as Gus of the Black Guard, in the scene in the cave, the meeting place of the Ku-Klux Klan, interpreted his part with rare dramatic effect. Charles Avery, as the scoundrel governor, the tool of Lynch, was admirable. The part of Elsie Stoneman was taken by Claire McDowell, who charmingly portrayed the noble character. Mable Shaw gave a very satisfactory interpretation of the character of Flora, Dr. Cameron's daughter. E. Cecil Butler, as the Grand Wizard of the Klan, Gen. N. B. Forrest; Maude Durand, as Eve, Nelse's wife; John E. Sweeny, as a carthaginian peddler and auctioneer, and all of the other members of the numerous cast were very satisfactory in their respective parts. Some of them displayed dramatic ability in various situations of a high order.

The scenic effects were excellent, that of the cave being particularly impressive. "The Clansman" will be presented at the Vendome the balance of the week.

### "THE CLANSMAN."

(Nashville Banner.)

Thomas Dixon's flamboyant melodrama, "The Clansman," has come and gone, and its effect on life in Nashville appears to have been no more than that of any one of a thousand other such plays might have exerted, and but for the protests against the performance it would probably be as soon forgotten as any of them. The protests against the play and the discussion elicited by them were valuable aids to the press agent, and their effects was shown in the crowded houses at each presentation of the drama.

If such a play as the "Clansman" were allowed to appear without opposition, the probability is that it would soon run its course and pass into the limbo of forgotten sensations. It has no literary or dramatic merit to sustain a continued popularity.

There are features of the play that naturally appeal to many people in the South. It depicts the gross injustice to which the Southern white people were subjected by reconstruction measures and the fanaticism of some of the leading Northern politicians of the reconstruction era. It shows, too, the justification for measures of self-defense which the stricken South adopted. These things presented in melodramatic form arouse a sentiment largely prevalent in the South, and elicit interest and applause, but for this very reason the play is unwholesome. The South should not linger in bitter and unprofitable memories. It should not, at least, have its feelings harrowed by a recall of those evil days with their worst features accentuated and intensified with all the calcium effects of a stage presentation. History should be studied calmly and dispassionately and only perverted ideas can be had from a purposely highly colored melodrama.

"The Clansman," too, is calculated to encourage and sustain race rancor, and that is something the South needs especially to avoid. The relation of the races in the South now is not only amicable but politically and otherwise it is such as the white people desire. It doesn't behoove them to aid in the exploitation of race antagonisms. "The Clansman" from this point of view is hurtful. It has no motive of good or helpfulness in it. It is a travesty on the conditions of the reconstruction times, and it contributes nothing to history and is designed for no present good. The ne-

## A NORTHERN SYNDICATE PURCHASES

### A LARGE TRACT OF LAND IN NORTH NASHVILLE.

This property we understand is on McLaughlin avenue, not far from the Jefferson street car line, and near Fisk University.

The land is to be cut up into building lots, and sold on long time, the same as has been done by several firms here to sell to white people.

It is a fact that with many thousands of lots sold on long time in this city, a colored person was unable to purchase a lot unless he paid cash, or nearly all cash for it. The result has been that any one working and desiring to invest 50 cents or a dollar a week in real estate had no opportunity for doing so.

This firm will place a large force of men at work on this property at once to beautify it. We are told they will have about 500 lots, and have already let the contract for grading and making streets, and otherwise making high grade property of this. In order that every one doing business may be guaranteed against any possibility of loss, one of the local banks guarantees all their transactions by signing all deeds and contracts given by this firm.

### PEARL HIGH SCHOOL NOTES.

This school is now in a settled condition. Classes are running smoothly, pupils have become accustomed to their new grades, and it would be difficult for a visitor to tell that any change had taken place. Reorganization was effected with very little loss of time. More pupils failed in higher mathematics than in any other branch, thus verifying the popular and accepted notion that mathematical knowledge is the hardest to acquire. Science appeared to furnish the next greatest obstacle in the way of promotion. It would be interesting to know how the pupils in the white High School acquitted themselves in these branches, that a comparison might be made as to the relative difficulty of acquisition of these subjects by white and colored pupils, especially as both schools took the same questions.

This school was honored with a visit from Mr. J. Herman Moore (Prince Herman), of Pittsburg, Pa., this week. Rev. G. L. Jackson visited the High School on Monday.

Miss S. M. Wells, of Fisk University, called at the school and spent much time visiting the First and Second Floors.

gro protests against "The Clansman" were first made in the North. It was inhibited by white Democratic authorities in several Southern cities at a time of race excitement. These objections, when they have been made in vain in the South, have only advertised the play. "The Clansman" is objectionable in the same way that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was. It presents the worst features of an evil condition in the garish and exaggerated light of melodrama and irritates and inflames a serious situation that should be left to safe judgment. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was one of the most potent factors in producing a bloody war that calm counsel might have avoided. It is hardly possible that "The Clansman" could have such dire effects, but it is toying with dynamic conditions that were best avoided.

The best way to nullify such an influence, however, is to leave it unnoticed as far as possible. It will thrive on sensational opposition.

In the name of all that is wise just and good when will these agitations cease? Why resurrect the old Ku Klux Klan? Why heat the blood and agitate the minds of young white men, who can possibly be easily excited to join a mob for the destruction of suspected Negroes on almost any frivolous pretext? But this is not the worst that this agitation brings among us. The reporter has found among almost every group of Negroes who have been discussing this affair, a strong determination to bring Uncle Tom's Cabin to follow the Clansman. The book itself is in demand. The Negroes are buying it for their children. A great number of Negroes are pledged to take season tickets for a week at fair prices to bring this play on the stage of Nashville. If opera houses will not have it they are talking of renting halls. I am sure that the Globe would advise against this. Uncle Tom's Cabin, as

written by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, did more, possibly, to emancipate the Negroes than any other agency. It is dear to the Negroes and is held in sacred memory. But in the words of our great statesman, "Let us have peace." The Globe will contend for peace. Yet we are assured that while some cities and even some states have denied the right of Uncle Tom's Cabin to be played upon the stages, yet the Mayor of Nashville has assured us that he cannot stop a play, as he has no power. So there is nothing to prevent Uncle Tom's Cabin coming to Nashville. While the Negroes love this play, and would pay more to see it than any other drama that is put upon the stage, yet, because they found that it was offensive to their white neighbors they have abandoned the agitation of having it, and they do not encourage the circulation of the book. Book agents among Negroes have not encouraged its sale. Well-thinking Negroes have not encouraged the reading of this book by Negroes. They have thought it best to let the dead past lie buried.

### INITIAL RALLY FOR ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY.

Sylvan Street Baptist Church Raises First Money Donated to Rebuild this Institution of Learning.

Much has been said about rebuilding Roger Williams University in Nashville, and speculation beyond measure has been indulged in, but the most advanced step in that direction was the effort put forth by the members of the Sylvan Street Baptist Church on the east side last Sunday, when under the leadership of their able and energetic pastor, Rev. Wm. Haynes, they raised the sum of \$54.00 as a fund to aid in rebuilding the institution here. This was supplemented with \$28.00 raised at an Executive Board meeting held recently at this church, making a total of \$82.00 raised by this congregation and pastor. No great fuss was made about the matter, simply the members and friends decided that if Roger Williams is to be built the Negroes will have to put their hands in their pockets and build it. They built the old Roger Williams and turned it over to a society dominated by white men, and when the fire came and the "winds blew," the Negroes woke up to realize that they had built on a sandy foundation. An institution that belonged to them was swept away by the flames, the little sum of over \$50,000 insurance was turned into the treasury of the society dominated by white men from the East, and the ground was cut up into building lots and is being sold; so that the proceeds can go in the same direction. The university could not be rebuilt on the same ground because some white people objected, despite the fact that one Mr. Thompson, one of the wealthiest and most highly respected citizens in this city testified that the students were always manly, and when the fire forced the young men and women out of doors, he threw open his doors to them and added them in every way he could. But the institution could not be built there. Then it was rumored that a site had been purchased in another part of the city, even more desirable than the old site, and that Nashville would retain the institution, but time rolled on and the longer the forty thousand Negroes of Nashville waited for matters to materialize into something tangible the further from solution seemed the problem of rebuilding this educational institution that has done so much to uplift the thousands who have for forty odd years looked on her with pride and gathered inspiration, and it seems that they have about decided that the best way to get a thing is to roll up your sleeves and go after it.

A committee has been appointed with Rev. Wm. Haynes, pastor of the Sylvan Street Baptist Church, as chairman, and they propose to go at the matter in a systematic way and raise funds to give to Nashville again one of her institutions of learning bigger and better than the old one. They have planned to hold educational rallies in as many churches as possible, and give every lover of education an opportunity to aid in this worthy cause. The people of Nashville and the whole country will receive these tidings with glad hearts, and those who have been entrusted with the duty of pushing the plan as laid out expect a hearty co-operation from the public generally. The citizens of Nashville have always taken a great deal of pride in the educational institutions located here, and are not willing to sacrifice a single one of them, but instead hope in the near future to be able to point to a progressive Fisk University, an enlarged Walden University, and a new and bigger Roger Williams University, owned and controlled by the Negro Baptists and the Negro friends of education.

## THE GOVERNMENT TAKEN TO TASK.

### RECENT ORDER CREATES MUCH DISCUSSION.

### Back Stamping of Mail Causes Local Publishers Great Worry.

IMPOSSIBLE TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY OF ERRORS IF THE RECENT ORDER ABOLISHING BACKSTAMPING STANDS—THAT THE NEW METHOD WILL NOT PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST FRAUDS IS SHOWN—PRESSURE WILL BE BROUGHT TO BEAR IN FAVOR OF OLD SYSTEM.

Much is being said in business circles among the big publishing houses of Nashville concerning back stamping. It seems that an article which appeared in the Globe a few weeks ago has started an investigation as to whether backstamping was really a hindrance or help to incoming mail of first-class nature. It is an undisputed fact that there is but one way of ascertaining the delay in letters that are received in the post office from an R. P. O. and not delivered within the limit of time. The post office in dispatching its large amount of outgoing mail makes up special ties of letters when the quantity is sufficient to justify it. In case a letter for Memphis is put in the package tied off for Knoxville, from the Nashville post office, it would possibly lose from 24 to 48 hours if the trains were running on schedule time. This could only be detected by the distributing clerk at the Knoxville post office. The error should be reported on the facing slip, which should accompany this tie of letters, and would serve as a check on the mailing clerk in the Nashville post office. If the distributing clerks in the Knoxville post office were using the backstamping machine, and would destroy or misplace this facing slip, the only recourse for reporting the error, if reported at all, would be to report it under the pouch label, which of course would not hold good against the railroad postal clerk, who could ask for credit as the error was not reported on the facing slip. The letter would then be marked "Missent" by Knoxville and dispatched by the first mail out to Nashville. These appear to be the two points at issue. The trend of the argument put forth by the First Assistant Postmaster General in his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906, in which he takes up at length and discusses backstamping, seems to be in favor of facing slips to backstamping. It is argued that the only feasible way to discuss the matter on its merits is to draw an illustration showing the absolute need of backstamping as a help to all, and a protection to the sender as well as the addressee.

B is in Memphis, Tennessee; A is in Nashville, Tenn. B has promised to have a check here to take up a note at the One-Cent Savings Bank which is due on Saturday, February 2. The note is subject to protest. B mails a letter in Memphis at 10 a. m., February 1, 1907. It is so postmarked and is dispatched by the first Nashville mail. The mailing clerk in the Memphis office accidentally puts this letter in the Knoxville box. It is tied off for Knoxville, and is so dispatched. The distributing clerk in the Knoxville office gets this letter and reports the error on the facing slip from the Memphis post office. The letter is then dispatched to Nashville but does not reach here until the night of the 2nd of February. In the meantime A has protested the note at the Bank. Notwithstanding B is under the impression that his letter is received on time, he argues that it was mailed on time and should have been delivered. A says it was not received. With the backstamping, the local office could show the letter was not received until the night of February 2, while if the backstamping is dispensed with and only the facing slip is used, the local office and carriers force would be held responsible for the delay. Letters that are missent by post offices and R. P. O.'s are not always marked "Missent" by the clerk detecting the error. They simply, as a rule, check